

I am a computer scientist at a leading US university, a sophisticated consumer of digital media, and likely will be an early adopter of digital television hardware and software. I'd like the FCC to know that I am very unlikely to buy any DTV hardware that prevents me from engaging in fair use of content, such as making copies for me to view on another machine I own. I am concerned that the "broadcast flag" mechanism will prevent such historically reasonable use.

My scientific training, and social observation, tells me that any copy protection mechanism for a string of bits (such as a TV show) will be defeated by some among the broad community of people who understand computers. Pirates will be able to make and profit from pirated content. Typical users, less sophisticated, will be prevented from making legal copies. The industry will thus lose its market for two powerful reasons, instead of one.

Thus, the DTV industry (both content and hardware companies), and its consumers, will best be served by denying the request of content companies that all hardware must include this "broadcast flag" system.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Bates  
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President, Zoesis Studios (a content company)